

**Central Coventry Fire District
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
September 20, 2011 – 7:00 pm
240 Arnold Road**

Minutes

1. Call to Order – 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

President: Girard Bouchard Jr.

Vice President: Joe Bonn

**Directors: – Bob Crowe – Linda Giguere – Ronald Gizzarelli -Anna
Mae Lapinski, Armond Niquette**

Treasurer: Tom Lacolle

Tax Collector: Jeanne Graemiger

Clerk: Christine Moniz

Chief : Robert W. Seltzer

Asst. Chief – Scott Tucker

Union President Dave Gorman

Not Present:

4. Approval of Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting –

08/16/ 2011

**Motion to accept the minutes – Director Giguere Seconded by
Director Gizzarelli**

With one change in wording quick to quit.

All Vote Aye

**5. Communications – The President read aloud a proclamation sent to
CCFD from the Coventry Town Council.**

6. Old Business – None

**7. Presidents Report – Chief and the President finished the light
survey of the District 426 lights will be removed or taken off the bill
and 208 lights we will change the watts. The number of lights
removed at no cost to us is 130 and cost of \$16,200.00 is to remove
the rest of the lights. Since we will have to pay for the removal of
the lights the savings in the first year will be about \$2200.00. We will
not see a savings until the following billing cycle. A total savings in
the second billing cycle will be about \$30,250.00. We can reduce the
lights in the following years if we choose to. Director Lapinski
showed some concern about the safety factors in the areas we are
removing lights. The President explained that we are removing on
the straight away and also on streets where safety is not an issue.
We will however, make sure they are left at the cul-de-sac and the
corners. Director Crowe feels we are doing our best to help reduce**

the expenses for the district. Director Gizzarelli was concerned about lighting the sidewalks and the President stated that they are street lights and they are there to illuminate the streets not the sidewalks.

One more issue the President would like to report on is the Western Coventry Fire District at one of their Board meetings the Tax Collector's Report that was presented by Mr. Guastini his report was he heard that Coventry Credit Union cut off CCFD line of credit due to non-payment and that our last three payments have not been made on our new truck. He understands that we are looking to increase our taxes significantly. This statement is erroneous and clearly they do not know what they are talking about and why put it in the minutes of the meeting. The President would like to address this issue along with the Chief and draft a letter to the attention of the Western Coventry Board members. Director Lapinski made a motion to allow the President to address the issue and it was seconded by V.P. Bonn.

The President would like to finish his report and vote on the letter as an action item.

Motion to Approve the Presidents Report: Director Giguere
Seconded: Director Lapinski
All Vote Aye

Action Item - Write a letter to the Board of the Western Coventry Fire District to address the issue of slanderous remarks and information in their minutes of the Board Meeting in July

Motion made by Director Lapinski and Seconded by V.P. Bonn

All Vote Aye.

8. Chiefs report - Personnel – B.C. Murray is still out on injury, Lt. Leveillee is still out on stress his independent exam is coming up in October. Lt. Medeiros is still out with a knee injury and FF Garrahan is out with a back strain.

I have 90% of the budget completed and look for final direction from the Board on the budget tonight. I will also continue to pursue uncollected taxes starting the beginning of October 2011.

Mill fire on Howard Ave on 09/14 was investigated by our Arson Team and the State Fire Marshal's Office. The determination was arson.

Also, our Lt Harrington made a great save of a young man who jumped into the water was unable to get out.

We weathered Hurricane Irene fairly well. The Presidential Declaration before the storm enables us to apply for FEMA money and we should get 75% back for OT and truck use expenses. We ran a water pod that went very well and we also supplied a water tanker for non drinking water due to the fact a lot of wells were not working. No other significant issues to report.

Motion to Approve Chief's Report: Director Giguere Seconded:

Director Lapinski

All Vote Aye

9. Treasurer's Report - included in the packet is the report for the year end numbers. The Treasurer asked the Board if there are any questions and he would be happy to answer them.

Motion to Approve the Treasurers Report: Director Niquette

Seconded: Director Gizzarelli

All Vote Aye

10. Tax Collector's Report – Everyone has the final report for August. The Tax Collector has some actions items. The President asked if we received the \$75,000.00 for the health center. She stated that was part of the action items. We are about \$300,00.00 behind in collections. The Tax Collector states that we are still waiting on the figures from the tax sale. Union President Gorman asked if the back taxes are a back log from previous years and the Tax Collector stated that you don't always collect 100%. The President explained to Captain Gorman that \$ 574,000 is the figure that was uncollected for 2010.

Motion to approve tax collectors report: Director Crowe Seconded:

Director Niquette

All Vote Aye

Actions items from the tax collector. She asked that the legal fees get paid to the Lawyer direct. The Chief stated that the Lawyer was paid. The Tax Collector stated that the funds collected in legal fees need to be paid right away to the Lawyer. The Chief and the Treasurer stated that the Lawyer was paid.

She asked about the paper for the tax bills and if she could purchase the paper the Chief and President said go ahead and take care if this.

The Health Center sent in a check for the amount of \$81,312.46 in back taxes so we are now up to date on the payments of the Fire Taxes.

The tax collector stated she was directed by the Board to place a lien on Commerce Park. This property in question is now owned by the Town of Coventry. Hopkins Hills Tax Collector told our tax collector that they abated the portion of Fire Taxes that was due to them. The President of CCFD asked the tax collector how much was owed in back taxes before the property was sold to the Town and the tax collector did not have that information. She also stated that this property has been in legal action for many years and she also stated that we cannot charge the Town next year. The President asked if they owe us \$42,000 and the Tax collector stated that it was the one thing she did not get was the total that Commerce Park owed us. The

President stated at the closing their should have been a tax lien and that we are owed taxes. The President wants the Tax Collector to go from June 23rd back and find out what they owes us and report this information to the Board for next month. One of the residents from the town that was at the meeting did not understand why there was not a lien because the Town has an automatic lien on property that has back taxes how come the Fire District does not have the same thing. The Tax Collector was advised to investigate this.

The Tax Collector also brought up taxes that she would like to remove from the tax roll. One being balances due on auto taxes that we no longer collect. Also, taxes on cemeteries. The President stated that the abatements and removal of property taxes need to be addressed at the annual meeting and voted by the tax payers.

The Chief had mentioned that property that the Town has abated we vote on at the monthly Board Meeting.

We will abate the taxes at the normal Board Meeting since the Town has already abated the taxes.

Motion made to abate taxes on the tax roll that the Town has already abated.

Motion made by President Bouchard and Seconded by Director Gizzarelli and Director Crowe

All Vote Aye

11. New Business - 2011-2012 Budget - the worksheet was presented to the Board for review and discussion. The Chief went over the numbers line by line but there are still some issues that need to be looked into further as far as cuts. The Board decided due to more discussion on cutting back and looking further into getting the budget in line they would reconvene on September 27, 2011 at 7:00 pm to work on the budget only. The President made it clear that there will not be any further discussion other than the budget on Tuesday night.

12. Introduction of new business- none

13. Good and Welfare –Tickets to the get motivated seminar are available.

**14. Motion made to adjourn 10:02 p.m. By Director Giguere
Seconded by Director Lapinski
All Vote Aye**